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EASTERN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

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FROM D. F. Hawley
Cairo to A.C. Goodison.

RESTRICTED

No. 1071 2/64
Dated February 1.
Received February 10.

SUBJECT

Full report of measures taken to date by the Arab League and Governments to fulfil the resolutions taken by the Arab Summit Conference.

References

-/43.

MINUTES

See minutes below

10/2

(Printing Instructions)

(Outward Action)

(Action completed)

(Main Indexed)

21. 2.66.

The main points of interest here are:

a) There is to be a United Arab Army.

b) The Yarmuk is part of the diversion schemes to be considered.

c) Tekhmin is to go to Cairo

d) HM Embassy Cairo know when the Arab Foreign Ministers are coming to London but have not bothered to tell us. By now they will have my letter begging for this information.

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NEAD

Mr. Langley 13/2

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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Ed. (53)

Mr Morris
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BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

(10712/64)

February 1, 1964.

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My dear Goodison,

This letter is to report on the measures taken to date by the Arab League and Governments to fulfil the resolutions taken by the Arab Summit Conference (Cairo Despatch No. 8 of January 24, 1964).

2. Press reports here have presented a picture of continuous and unprecedented activity by the League in this connexion. Much of this impression derives from the chorus of condemnation (particularly by Shukairi) of Alexis Johnson's speech on the Middle East. Apart from this, activity has mainly concerned:

(a) the appointment of the Arab Command, and preparation for General Ali Amer's forthcoming visits to Beirut, Damascus and Amman. The League are reported to be planning to hold an emergency meeting of the Arab Defence Council at Chiefs of Staff level, following which the Arab Joint Command would hold its first meeting in the first week of February. The only contributions to the Arab Command so far reported here have been Tunisia's offers to make available two generals and two brigades. The press here has estimated that it will take one month to form the Command, and two to form the United Arab Army;

? brigadiers ?

(b) the formation of the Technical Executive Committee, to supervise the Arab project for the diversion of the Jordan Waters (which appears to be merely the former Arab League Jordan Waters Committee, resuscitated for this purpose). Hassuna has announced that the Committee will comprise representatives of U.A.R., Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon; according to the Cairo press the four countries have nominated their representatives for this Committee. In the meantime, Dr Mohammed Ahmed Selim, the U.A.R.'s Jordan Waters expert, left for Amman on January 28, to review the Yarmuk project at the invitation of the Jordan Development Board. He is scheduled to return for a meeting of the Technical Committee on February 1;

(c) the formation of the Committee of personal representatives of the Arab Heads of State to follow

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A.C. Goodison, Esq.,
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up the execution of the Arab Summit resolutions. So far, the Lebanese, Kuwaiti and Iraqi Ambassadors in Cairo have declared themselves appointed for this purpose, while the League has confirmed the nomination of Bahgat Talhuni from Jordan. The first meeting of this Committee is to be held "as soon as possible", i.e. following the nomination of representatives, and the meeting of the Technical Committee on February 1.

3. In the meantine, the financial commitments resulting from the Arab Summit have been communicated to Arab governments. Contributions to the two funds created for the Arab diversion project are to be remitted in sterling to the Arab League Secretariat, which will in turn deposit them with a Cairo bank (incidentally providing some much-needed replenishment of the U.A.R.'s depleted foreign exchange reserve !).

4. In pursuance of the Arab Summit's attempts to settle the Yemeni question, the Algerian Minister of Wakfs, Taufiq el Medani, visited Cairo from January 26 - 28 en route for Iraq and Riyadh. He saw President Nasser, and on leaving described his talks here as "fruitful".

5. Finally, the Arab League has drawn up a schedule for the Foreign Ministers of the Arab States to embark on a series of world-wide tours to explain the Arab case on Palestine, the "increasing Zionist threat" and Israeli "aggressive" projects. All told, the thirteen Ministers are between them due to make 175 visits to 114 countries; some of them, notably Dr Fawzi, who is down to visit 24 countries in four continents, will be away for well over two months. All the Foreign Ministers, apart from the Yemeni, intend to descend on London at some stage of their tours.

(& the Jordanian)

6. I am sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Algiers, Amman, Baghdad, Bahrain, Beirut, Damascus, Kuwait, Jedda, Tel Aviv, Tripoli, Benghazi, Khartoum, Rabat, Tunis, Paris, Washington and to the Consulate-General in Jerusalem, P.O.M.E.C. (Aden) and the United Kingdom Mission New York.

Yours Ever

Donald Hawley

(D.F. Hawley)